

IN RECOGNITION OF GREATER ST.
MARK A.M.E. CHURCH'S 127TH
ANNIVERSARY

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2013

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor and pleasure to extend my sincere congratulations to the congregation of Greater Saint Mark A.M.E. Church in Columbus, Georgia as they celebrate a remarkable 127 years. The anniversary celebration will be held on Sunday, December 8, 2013 at 3:00 pm at Greater St. Mark Church in Columbus. The event will also be an opportunity to welcome Reverend Kevin Moore as the church's new pastor.

Greater Saint Mark traces its roots back to 1886 when the seven original members began holding prayer meetings in a small house located on the land where the church stands today. From the prayer meetings, soon grew a Sunday school and eventually, a full church service with a devoted congregation. St. Mark assigned its first pastor, Reverend M.R. Wilson, in 1889, and from his pastorate came the church's original structure.

Since then, the Church has seen many changes. After Reverend W.L. Brown installed a new piano and organ, Reverend A.M. Threath purchased a new parsonage, transforming the old one into classrooms, a Pastor's study, and meeting space. Reverend W.J. Daniels helped the Church acquire new pews, carpeting, and a bell honoring Mrs. Susie Herte and Miss Clara Charleston. The Bussey-Hixon-Alexander Annex was built to accommodate a modern kitchen and restroom, a pastor's study, a secretary and finance office, a choir room, and a stewardess room. In honor of Mrs. Johnnie Mae Johnson, a scholarship fund was established, along with the donation of a church van.

In addition to the physical renovations to Greater St. Mark, many of the church's leaders have focused on advancing the spiritual impact the church can make on the surrounding area. Under the pastorate of Reverend B.A. Hart, Greater St. Mark held a planning meeting which eventually brought Citizens Trust Bank, a minority enterprise, to Columbus. He also established the Young Adult Ensemble and the Male Chorus to enhance the Church's music ministry, and introduced bi-weekly Bible study and Christian Education seminars. Reverend Dr. Roosevelt Morris oversaw the donation of a house to the Columbus Historic Foundation, on behalf of the church. In the three years of Reverend Henry E. Green's leadership, a new roof was installed and a church website was built. Now Greater St. Mark will be welcoming Reverend Kevin Moore into the family as the church's new pastor and more improvements are sure to come under his leadership.

What began as a small house for families to meet in prayer has grown into a family of its own, housing generations of church members and guiding them through their journey with the Lord. All of these additions and renovations exhibit the giving nature of the entire St. Mark congregation, as well as their dedication to serving Christ, each other, and the community. Not only do contributions and improvements to the church improve Greater St.

Mark's ability to spread the word of the Lord, but they also strengthen the bond the members have with each other.

Mr. Speaker, today I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the Greater St. Mark A.M.E. Church in Columbus, GA for serving as a pillar of faith and fellowship to its members for the past 127 years. May God continue to bless the church and its congregation.

CAIRN UNIVERSITY

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2013

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, Langhorne Manor, Pennsylvania is home to Cairn University as it celebrates its 100th anniversary this year. We acknowledge and congratulate the dedicated administrators and academic staff who have contributed greatly to its success. The school that began on July 8, 1913, as the Bible Institute of Philadelphia, and later the Philadelphia Biblical University, has grown to be an outstanding academic institution with a professed Christian mission to educate students who will graduate as professionally competent men and women of character to carry that mission forward into their church and society.

Cairn University students have the option of five schools: Divinity, Liberal Arts and Sciences, Business and Leadership, Education and Music; two departments, Social Work and Christian Counseling, and graduate programs. On this occasion, we heartily congratulate Cairn University Chancellor W. Sherrill Babb and President Todd J. Williams and look forward to future achievement and the contributions Cairn graduates will make toward the betterment of their communities.

**THANKING STEVE KAESER FOR
HIS SERVICE TO THE HOUSE**

HON. CANDICE S. MILLER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2013

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of his retirement on October 31, 2013, we would like to thank Mr. Steve Kaeser for his over twenty-five years of distinguished service to the United States House of Representatives. Steve has served this great institution as a valued employee of House Information Resources (HIR), within the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO).

Steve has held a multitude of senior engineering positions over the years and his technical expertise and skills have been invaluable to servicing customers in the House community as well as staff within Technology Support and Enterprise Operations. Before moving to Enterprise Operations, Steve served as an engineer on the Software Support Team, in the newly created Technology Call Center, and on the Escalations Team. Among his many accomplishments, Steve helped create and run the House's new anti-virus software program with the establishment of Trend. His other defining achievement was the establishment of

an Apps-server, which created a central access point for the download of all supportable software.

Moving forward, Steve has remained committed to supporting the ever-changing technology environment. After a few years in Technology Support, Steve joined Enterprise Operations where he became involved in critical aspects of client server architecture. He played an integral role in Windows server delivery and support and he performed system builds, security analysis and troubleshooting. In addition to server support, on occasion, Steve would lend his "radio" voice to the Recording Studio as a narrator for House training or you might see him at a co-workers desk helping them solve a problem. Throughout his career, Steve has provided House customers with the world class service they expect from the CAO.

On behalf of the entire House community, we extend congratulations to Steve for his years of dedication, outstanding contributions and service to the United States House of Representatives.

We wish Steve much happiness in fulfilling his retirement dreams.

HONORING JOSE R. ESCOBEDO III

HON. BETO O'ROURKE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 5, 2013

Mr. O'ROURKE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the memory of Sgt. Jose R. Escobedo, Jr. III. Born in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, Mr. Escobedo became a United States Citizen with the intention of enlisting in the United States Marine Corps. During over 10 years of service in the armed forces, Sargent Escobedo served in both the Marines and the Army and he served courageously during two tours of duty in Iraq.

Jose Escobedo graduated from Bowie High School in El Paso in 1995. After high school, he decided to join the Marines and served for nearly 9 years. After his honorable discharge, he worked for the city of Albuquerque in the Department of Transportation, but he missed the military. Eager to continue his service, "SGT Esco," as friends called him, decided to join the Army and after training he was assigned to 1st Battalion, 77th Field Artillery Regiment in Schweinfurt, Germany.

On November 19, 2008, Sargent Escobedo deployed to Iraq for the third time. Despite being in a combat zone, Jose was known by his fellow soldiers as a kind individual with a positive outlook on life that was infectious. He passed away on March 19, 2009 in Baghdad and at the age of 32.

Mr. Escobedo is survived by his wife, Angelica, and their three children, Elvida, Jose, and Mikey. He is interned in Fort Bliss National Cemetery in El Paso. The dedication with which he served our nation for so many years is an inspiration. El Paso misses Jose Escobedo and we are proud to honor him as a hero who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to the United States.